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ADMITTED TO PRACTICE IN: ARIZONA, COLORADO, MONTANA, NEVADA. TEXAS. WYOMING. DISTRICT OF COLOMBIA

March 28, 2007

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Docket Control Arizona Corporation Commission 1200 West Washington Phoenix, Arizona 85007

ARIZONA CORP. COMM 400 W CONGRESS STE 218 TUCSON AZ 85701

Re:

Tucson Electric Power Company Docket No. E-01933A-05-0650

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced proceeding on behalf of Mesquite Power, L.L.C., Southwestern Power Group II, L.L.C. and Bowie Power Station, L.L.C. and Sempra Energy Solutions are the original and thirteen (13) copies of Intervenor's Comments in Response to Other Parties' Comments on Tucson Electric Power Company's Proposed Recommended Opinion.

Also enclosed are two (2) additional copies of the aforesaid Intervenors' Comments. I would appreciate it if you would "filed" stamp the same and return them to me in the enclosed stamped and addressed envelope.

Thank you for your assistance with regard to this matter.

Sincerely,

Arizona Corporation Commission DOCKETED

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Lawrence V. Robertson, Jr.

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BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

2 2007 APR -5 P 1: 11 **COMMISSIONERS** 3 4 **MIKE GLEASON** C CORP COMMISSION RECEIVED DOCUMENT CONTROL Chairman 5 WILLIAM A. MUNDELL Commissioner 6 JEFF HATCH-MILLER APR Commissioner 7 ARIZONA CORP. COMM KRISTIN K. MAYES 400 W CONGRESS STE 218 TUCSON AZ 85701 8 Commissioner **GARY PIERCE** 9 Commissioner 10 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY TUCSON DOCKET NO. E-01933A-05-0650 ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY TO AMEND 11 DECISION NO. 62103 INTERVENORS' COMMENTS IN 12 RESPONSE TO OTHER PARTIES' COMMENTS ON TUCSON 13 ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY'S PROPOSED RECOMMENDED 14 OPINION AND ORDER 15

Mesquite Power, L.L.C., Southwestern Power Group II, L.L.C., Bowie Power Station, L.L.C., and Sempra Energy Solutions ("collectively M/S/B/S") hereby respond to the Comments filed by other parties in the above-captioned proceeding on Tucson Electric Power Company's ("TEP") March 16, 2007 (i) Submission of Proposed Recommended Opinion and Order ("Submission") and (ii) Proposed Recommended Opinion and Order ("ROO").

I.

INTRODUCTION

On March 28, 2007 M/S/B/S filed their Comments on TEP's Submission and ROO. M/S/B/S have since had an opportunity to review and analyze the Comments filed by other parties in the above-captioned proceeding, and they are reminded of the allegorical situation of twelve (12) people seated in a circle sharing a joke seriatim. The first person turns to the person seated to his left, and whispers a joke into that person's ear. The second person then turns to the

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person seated to his left and whispers the joke to that person; and the process repeats itself until the twelfth person shares the joke with the first person. By that point in time in the collective process, the joke heard by the first person is quite different from the joke as originally told due to the intervening phenomena of individual interpretations and embellishments.

More specifically, M/S/B/S find the various parties' perceptions of what TEP procedurally intended through the ROO to be most interesting and diverse, to say the least. Equally of interest is the variety of the parties' suggestions as to how the Commission should proceed from this point forward. Accordingly, and against this background, M/S/B/S believe it is appropriate that they describe at this juncture that procedural course of action which they understood the ROO contemplated, because their previously expressed and qualified support for the ROO was based upon the procedural understanding described in Section II below.

II.

M/S/B/S' UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTENDED PROCESS AND ANTICIPATED PROCEDURAL EVENTS

M/S/B/S actively participated throughout the evidentiary hearing that was conducted in the above-captioned proceeding on March 6-9, 2007; and, they actively participated in off-therecord discussions among the parties as to a possible process to be followed at the conclusion of the evidentiary hearing. Against that background, and assuming that the Commission ultimately adopted a ROO which so provided, M/S/B/S understood that the following would occur.

On or before July 2, 2007, TEP would file all that information necessary to constitute a complete rate increase application filing. Such filing would include that information necessary to support each of the four (4) alternative rate approaches which had been discussed during the March 6-9, 2007 evidentiary hearing. Those four (4) alternatives consisted of TEP's (i) Market-Rate Proposal, (ii) Market-Rate Phase-In Proposal, (iii) Cost-Of-Service (with Regulatory Asset

¹ In Sections I and II of their March 28, 2007 Comments, M/S/B/S suggested language deletions and additions, respectively, to the ROO.

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and ECAC) Proposal, and (iv) Hybrid Proposal. TEP's filing was to be based upon a calendar 2006 test period, with such adjustments as TEP believed to be appropriate.

Thereafter, a procedural schedule for processing TEP's filing would be established, with the objectives of (i) the Commission reaching a final decision during calendar 2008 in the docketed proceeding instituted in response to TEP's rate filing, , and (ii) new rates for TEP to be effective January 1, 2009, if possible. Among other procedural events, that procedural schedule would provide for the conduct of discovery and the filing of testimony and exhibits by all parties to the rate proceeding. In the testimony and exhibits to be filed by parties other than TEP, such parties could offer such additional rate approaches, or variations on any of TEP's four (4) alternative rate approaches, as such other parties saw fit.

In addition, and either contemporaneous with the institution of a new docketed proceeding to process TEP's rate case filing, or shortly thereafter, the above-captioned proceeding would be consolidated with the new docket. However, the focus of activities in the consolidated proceeding would be directed towards a resolution of rate issues, and not the legal issues arising from the 1999 Settlement Agreement and Decision No. 62103. In that regard, each party to the 1999 Settlement Agreement would have reserved its right to further litigate those issues at a later date, if necessary, but they would not be actively pursued in the evidentiary proceedings to be held in the rate case docket. Furthermore, the option of a resolution of one or more issues in the consolidated proceeding by settlement would remain a possibility.

III.

M/S/B/S' CURRENT POSITION

ON THE ROO

If the foregoing is an accurate and complete understanding of what TEP intended to achieve through its proposed ROO, M/S/B/S continue the qualified support therefor expressed in their March 28, 2007 Comments. However, they would support modification of the language of the ROO in the manner suggested by the Department of Defense, in order to include "a summary

of the testimony positions of each of the parties" who have presented testimony. [DOD Comments at page 1, Item No. 1] In addition, M/S/B/S concur with the following statements from the Comments filed by the Commission's Staff.

"...there should be no doubt as to the nature of the proceeding that is to be undertaken. It is a rate case, intended to establish TEP's rates commencing January 1, 2009, or as soon thereafter as possible." [Commission Staff Comments at page 4, lines 23-25]²

"Market studies illustrating a sufficiently robust market to support TEP's ['competitive' alternative] proposals would seem essential. Similarly, transmission studies demonstrating that TEP has access to sufficient transmission facilities to permit its generation needs to be met by competitive generation would seem to be another prerequisite." [Commission Staff Comments at page 2, lines 19-22]

M/S/B/S do not have a position with regard to the post-May 2008 treatment of the Fixed CTC. Nor do they have a position as to how and when TEP's DSM, Renewables and TOU proposals should be considered and acted upon by the Commission. Rather, M/S/B/S defer to the views and comments of the parties whose interest would be directly affected by those matters, and Administrative Law Judge Rodda's consideration of those views and comments.

IV.

CONCLUSION

M/S/B/S continue to support the type of procedure described in Section II above. In addition, they believe that the ROO should be modified to take into account the changes

² In this regard, M/S/B/S also agree with the observation of IBEW Local 116 that the above-captioned proceeding has "morphed" far beyond its original scope and purpose with the passage of time and intervening events. [IBEW Local 116 Comments at page 2, lines 1-4]

Further, in this regard, M/S/B/S are somewhat puzzled by RUCO's preference to litigate to a final resolution at this time what RUCO characterizes as the "Core Question," and "consider [the] rate impacts of TEP's alternative rate structures in a future proceeding," unless RUCO has in effect already concluded that pursuing a rate case at this time would not be cost-effective. However, a serious question would appear to exist as to whether RUCO's two-step procedural approach would allow sufficient time for new rates which would be effective by January 1, 2009.

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suggested in M/S/B/S' March 28, 2007 Comments, as well as those suggestions made by other parties which are noted in Section III above.

In the event that a ROO is either (i) not ultimately issued by Administrative Law Judge Rodda, due to an inability on her part to successfully reconcile the diverse positions of the parties, or (ii) not thereafter adopted by the Commission for whatever reason(s), M/S/B/S will continue to participate in the above-captioned proceeding as appropriate to their respective interests and needs.

Dated this 4th day of April 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence V. Robertson, Jr.

Attorney for Mesquite Power, L.L.C., Southwestern Power Group II, L.L.C., Bowie Power Station, L.L.C., and

Laurance V. Robertse J

Sempra Energy Solutions

Original and thirteen (13) copies of the foregoing filed with Arizona Corporation Commission Docket Control this 4th day of April 2007 c/o:

Arizona Corporation Commission 400 W. Congress, Suite 218 Tucson, Arizona 85701

A copy of the same served by e-mail or first Class mail this same date to:

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